



Chili A.  @findthetime04 · 1h

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Here are some thoughts that I've been spending some time on recently. For myself and of course many others communication and navigating social interactions can be tough. With online and telephone communication, such as here, a lack of social empathy becomes apparent when examining my issues in communication. Just recently I was chatting with a friend and they happened to express discontent and complain about something that I hadn't considered noteworthy to let discontent myself. In that situation I snapped back at their expressions of complaint, but failing to realize that such expression was relieving stress for them and was light hearted. In doing so I had run into such an event I try to avoid so much as I didn't take into consideration different perspectives. I think that presenting a letter on such ideas to this online platform could find others who have the same events happen.

<https://archive.org/details/ipdraft-letter-form-one>

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Dear George, Susie, Krish,

In all of the years that I have been interacting with society as a whole and the vastly different people that can be encountered while going about everyday life, not one problem have I more experienced than that of establishing a real connection in understanding and communicating effectively with someone of a different mind than myself. In this world, we are all supposed to be unique, of course, but at the same time, assuming we have all lived a similar sum of experiences, thought through our own problems in similar ways, and established like norms for communication, should the task of gaining insight into another's motives for their actions be something trivial. I have tried to work through it many times with friends of mine, and while we have known each other for years, I still find having to deliberately and concisely relate an



experience of my past in an effort to provide a contextual understanding I thought to be an already shared experience. Similarly, I asked them why we could not realize this difference. We let this misunderstanding, an error in communicating our speech, create chaos between us, and now there is a distasteful feeling about this topic one of us has innocently brought up. If this happened to us, whoever is reading this letter, I sincerely apologize for any frustrations I caused. Frustrations over something I did in your presence, frustrations over an idea I thought would be fine, frustrations from words I said to you but never meant that way. I hope that in such a situation I might have been able to catch this blip in communication, but social empathy is something I'm still figuring out myself.

Understanding that we think differently from each other sometimes seems like an impossible task. For example, in a social setting between a group of long-time friends, those who have been through many times together, from going through elementary while young, finding ways and time to stay together during Covid, to staying in contact after parting ways and leaving off to different parts of the country for higher education, some may generally accept the optimistic and relaxed nature of participating in games. For a few others and me, an argument is nothing more than us sharing our ideas enthusiastically. Unexpected are the heated responses and targeted attacks against the self when observing and sharing an idea with which the other person disagrees. We have known each other for such a long time now. Surely, you understand that these thoughts come from a place of respect and genuine curiosity about your opinion and why you stand by it. My difference of opinion, confusion, or surprise at a topic doesn't imply a disagreement or express that I invalidate your thoughts and ideas. Why would it? Such a concept was never explicitly said in our conversing with each other, but often, we encounter such occurrences in our conversations, something I dread happening each and every time it does happen. Despite the tense moments I have had with many different people, if I am still with them today, I only feel glad that I can argue and enjoy times with them, and such is the nature of understanding a person outside of small moments of misunderstanding.



Coolee Bravo
@BravoCoolee

Twitter the only place where well articulated sentences still get misinterpreted.

You can say "I like pancakes" and somebody will say "So you hate waffles?"

No bitch. Dats a whole new sentence. Wtf is you talkin about.

1:34 pm · 23 Oct 17

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Sir Bravo of Coolee
@SirBravoCoolee

This realm be the only land where refined rhetoric gets misinterpreted
You may proclaim "I enjoy bread" and a peer will respond "So doth hates potatoes?"
Nay cur. That is a whole new thought. What in the Lord's name art thou talking about

This leads me to another question, why should and why do we set a social norm or way of interpreting conversations? Not in a sense where I don't understand why, but I don't understand why the opposite cannot be as readily accepted as a person can be defined. Much emphasis is put on respect in interpersonal relationships and even more on how people show that respect to the other person in the relationship. What you must know is that expressing this respect verbally through direct communication isn't just as simple as directly stating it. In the course of a day, many different conversations happen about so many other things that it may be natural that certain statements are seen as coming off brash or with a lack of consideration. Yet, in some instances, it hasn't been that way. Gaining an understanding of the context behind someone's actions becomes so essential in such a situation and is critical to contextualizing their actions. We are all different in that way. For a majority of people, the way to express mutual respect is to talk in a restricted tone or manner and hold back the meaning behind words or statements. Settling for the less direct way forward and sacrificing efficiency in your actions and words. On occasion, however, I haven't seen the use of such a convention when speaking. Why lengthen your words to further appease and get around the harsh feeling that comes with criticizing or dealing with minor conflicts. Does such an idea represent the meaning of being understanding and empathetic? On the other hand, it is the pursuit of finding compromise or

confronting a situation with the barest of feelings, intentions, and language while still being civil, of course, not a show of respect for all involved. I have never understood this because, to a person such as myself, I only say what I mean to say, and what I don't say is never meant to be in the conversation or up for interpretation, unlike what may be thought about when conversations end.

Always Your Friend,

Chili